

The Tower



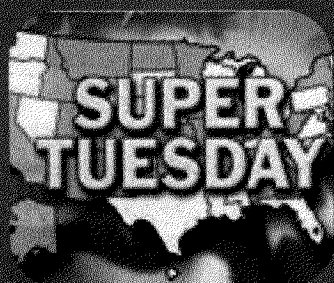
Arcadia University

5 February 2008

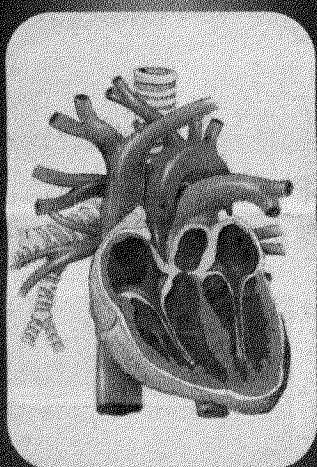
Glenside, Pennsylvania

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Text Messaging Keeps Arcadia Safe

By NEIL HUNKINS
Associate Editor

On a brisk afternoon in Glenside, a truck delivering liquid chlorine to a nearby swimming pool is traveling northbound on Route 309. As it passes Arcadia's campus, the truck encounters debris on the road and the driver swerves the truck to avoid the obstacles. A bit too hard of a swerve it would seem as the truck topples over, spilling the deadly liquid on to the highway, allowing a northerly breeze to sweep the toxic chlorine fumes toward Arcadia's campus.

Moments later, cell phones across Arcadia's campus buzz simultaneously. "Get inside and to the highest floor possible," the text messages read. "Close all windows. Do not come outside until told to do so."

Though this hypothetical situation may seem unlikely, it is certainly not impossible and, as always, Arcadia's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has taken every precaution to prepare for such a calamity.

The newest measure in the ERT's safety plan is the introduc-



tion of the Emergency Notification System. As the scenario above indicates, this system monopolizes on text messaging to alert students and faculty of "immediate threats to life (personal safety) and potential major damage to property," according to one of ERT's key members, Jim Bonner, Arcadia's Director of Public Safety.

Bonner explained that the system's launch last December came after months of deliberation amongst campus officials and contract negotiations with potential vendors. The idea for a text messaging alert system spawned out of a professional conference

Bonner attended last winter.

Six months later, the lives of 27 students and 5 faculty members at Virginia Tech were taken by a lone shooter in a matter of hours and the necessity for a more expedient system to notify students and faculty of important safety information kicked into high gear.

Not long after, Arcadia's ERT selected e2Campus as its company of choice to implement the notification system. The decision came from the collection of campus officials that comprise the ERT team, to include Lori Bauer in University Relations, Jan Walbert in Student Affairs,

and Terry Ryan, the Assistant to Arcadia's President, Jerry Greiner.

Though the system is an exciting and critical addition to Arcadia's safety measures, Bonner was careful to put its importance in perspective.

"E2C is just an added tool," Bonner stated, emphasizing that Public Safety still maintains multiple approaches to maximize safety on campus. "This is just one of the tools we use to notify students and faculty on campus."

Still, this new notification system is a powerful addition for Arcadia. The system is located off campus and is on a separate network from Arcadia's Internet service provider. In the confusion of the VA Tech shooting, their school's IT system overflowed, leading it to shut down. By keeping the e2C system off campus, this problem is avoided, meaning students can still receive texts of incidents on campus even if the Internet is down.

Please see **TEXT MESSAGES**,
page 2

Your Mom Goes to College: The Non-Traditional Arcadia Student

By JENNIFER PACHECO
Associate Editor

Every Tuesday and Thursday Stacey Edmonds settles into her chair in Brubaker Hall, says hello to classmates as she gets out her books, and gets ready to take notes. The only thing out of the ordinary that sets Edmonds apart is that she is a non-traditional student at Arcadia. At 40 years old, she is used to being the oldest student in all of her classes.

When the movie *Napoleon Dynamite* debuted in 2004, the come back, "Your mom goes to college," became the slogan of choice for many teens and young adults. Lots of moms-and dads, grandparents and other adults- are in fact going to college, looking to get an education.

Traditional college students are considered those who are under the age of 23 and go to school full time. They are the ones seen in movies going to football games and frat parties, and the ones mostly spotted on college campuses. The older students are usually the ones found in night classes because they have fulltime jobs or other responsibilities that exclude them from the schedule of a fulltime undergraduate course load. Although they may be hard to spot, they are still an important part of the college community.

According to the article "The Adult Learner: Here to Stay" from the May

2005 issue of *Black Issues in Higher Education* written by Earl Thomas, "The 2002 National Center for Education Statistics Report estimated that more than 47 percent of enrollees in U.S. higher education institutions could be classified as adult learners." Though the present number of adult learners at Arcadia doesn't mimic the statistic, there is still a fairly large non-traditional population registered here.

According to the Bill Elnick of the Arcadia Registrar's Office, out of the 1,867 fulltime undergraduate students registered for the fall 2007 semester, 3.5 percent are over the age of 24. Of the 167 part-time undergraduate students, 68.3 percent are over the age of 24. Arcadia once had a "flourishing night college and weekend college," said Elnick, "but the numbers have been dropping; there is usually a large enrollment of older students when people are laid off."

In an article from *Time Magazine's* 5th Annual Special: *The Making of America* from July 2006 titled "Grandpa Goes to College", Dan Kadlec reported that "1 in 10 undergrads ... are over the age of 40." Kadlec also reported that universities across the United States are developing "elaborate university-linked retirement villages."

Please see **NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS**, page 6

Heath Ledger: A Life Lost Too Soon

By GINA MERLINO
Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 21, Hollywood lost one of its most talented young stars. Heath Ledger was only 28. Like James Dean, Rivers Phoenix, and Marilyn Monroe, it has been a tragedy of a young life and a promising career cut short.

His housekeeper and massage therapist found his body at around 3:30 pm. Police who carried out Ledger's body were surrounded by paparazzi and onlookers. His publicist had this to say about the actor's sudden death, "We are all deeply saddened and shocked by this accident. This is an extremely difficult time for his loved ones and we are asking the media to please respect the family's privacy and avoid speculation until the facts are known."

His death is not considered a suicide, but rather a horrible accident. Ledger was born in Australia in 1979. He was an award-winning actor who was excellent at playing emotionally real, authentic characters. He acted in high school drama productions where he was bitten by the acting bug. From there, Ledger broke into Australian independent films. The crime thriller "Two Hands" earned him an audition for the teen comedy "10 Things I Hate About You." The movie made Ledger a heartthrob.

Please see **LEDGER**, page 3



Text Messages

Continued from page 1

Another benefit of the e2C system is that it is localized specifically to Arcadia. Many of the other vendors that were vying for Arcadia as a client could only offer to attach Arcadia to one of its existing networks. With e2C, Arcadia has its own network, so congestion or unnecessary delay is not a problem.

"3,700 Arcadia students is nothing when this system can send hundreds of thousands of texts," Bonner added. He added that once he or one of the handful of administrators who have access to

"3,700 Arcadia students is nothing when this system can send hundreds of thousands of texts."

this system send out a message, the e2C system delivers it via text to registered users in under a minute.

Additionally, Bonner was adamant about the system's purpose.

Other schools use the service to send students notices about student activities or to make general announcements. Arcadia's ERT team chose to limit the notification system to safety messages only to stress the urgency of these messages when they are sent out.

Of course, some students may be deterred from registering by the belief that any texts received from e2C will add extra charges to their phone bills. While this is not true, regular text messaging fees will apply.

Still, Bonner urges students to consider the benefits that having the information sent by this system will provide.

"We are not using the system for anything other than extreme emergencies. In the best case scenario, the system will never have to be used. In the worst case, it's best to have the info."

On top of that, the instructional text messages will be "short, brief and to the point."

To register for the e2C notification system, simply:

1. Log on to your MyArcadia account and look for the window titled "Emergency Notification System" (usually at the bottom of the page).

2. Click the link to register, enter a unique password, your cell phone number and service provider and click "Create Account."

3. You will receive a text message a few seconds later with a validation code.

4. You must enter on the next page of the site in order to complete registration.

Once that is complete, then congratulations! You're now in the know about any safety issues the moment they occur.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Welcome back Beavers,

To another semester at Arcadia. We at The Tower are happy to be back at work. We've got some changes in the line-up for the semester. We have a new News Editor, Tyler Peckham, and a new Photography Editor, Amy Longo, both returning from semesters abroad. They've already proved themselves excellent additions to the staff, starting with this issue.

And as always, both the new editors and the old are always working tirelessly to make The Tower better and better. Your opinion is crucial to this process. Never hesitate to drop us a line telling us what you really think. Personally, I love a really nasty letter to the editor, but let your constructive criticism come out in whichever form it chooses to take.

We're always looking for new writers as well, so if you want to try your hand at student journalism, we'd love to have you.

Either way, you can contact us at: arcadiatower@gmail.com

Until next time,
Kaitlyn Foti
Editor-in-Chief

THE BULLPEN

The Tower's bi-monthly round-up of quirky, interesting and mildly relevant news.

Mona Unmasked

In the age of CSI it seems that the true identity of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa has finally been unmasked. On January 14, 2008 specialists at the Heidelberg University library in Germany used writings in the margins of a book owned by Agostino Vespucci that date back to October 1503 to name Lisa Gherardini as the model. She was the wife of an affluent Florentine merchant named Francesco del Giocondo.

After years of speculation many ideas have been tossed around. Many of which seemed to point out that she looked kind of manly. Some historians argued that the painting is a self portrait of da Vinci as a woman, and with the right technology computers can make that argument seem plausible. Other theories suggested that the subject could have been one of his lovers or even his mother. Let's just hope it wasn't his mother who was his lover.

Now that the mystery is solved a lot of people probably feel very stupid. The picture has been titled "La Gioconda" for years; the meaning in Italian is 'happy or jovial woman,' and it is a pun on the subject's married name. Maybe next time historians can read the title of a painting before accusing the artist of cross-dressing in a time before digital cameras. Today da Vinci could just put on a dress and take some Myspace pictures; an oil painting would have taken way too much effort.

-Jennifer Pacheco

Die Webkinz, Die!

As if lead-based paints in children's toys and gleefully epileptic Tickle Me Elmos weren't enough to traumatize children, now it seems that their beloved Webkinz are being ritualistically slaughtered.

For the uninformed (everyone over the age of 9), Webkinz are a series of plush animal toys similar to Beanie Babies. The product line began in 2005 by the toymaker Ganz to bring the trend of disgustingly cute stuffed animals into the 21st century.

Included with each Webkinz doll is a unique code that can be entered online at WebkinzWorld.com. The code gives each child access to a digital version of their "pet" that they can buy toys, clothes and furnishings for using Kinzcash, the site's version of money.

Like the Tamagotchis of yesteryear, Webkinz require care. Also, like the Goonies, Webkinz never (say) die. Webkinz only get sick and can be treated back to good health.

Unfortunately, the joy of this eerily adorable website has been muddled lately by the rumor of a "Webkinz Killer." Early last year, word began to circulate of a seemingly random occurrence in the Webkinz World that resulted in the brutal deaths of the digital creatures right before their owners' eyes. Many reported the appearance of a black, red, or yellow box in a user's Webkinz room that, when clicked, causes the lights to go out in the digital room followed by slashing sounds. When the "lights" come back on, the Webkinz creature is reportedly lying in a pool of blood.

Some claim that Neopets, from the competing site Neopets.com, are the killers that appear on screen wielding knives and even chainsaws. Others suspect this is the work of a disgruntled former employee of Webkinz.

Following the rumors, Webkinz World Headquarters released a statement assuring its customers that the rumors were false. "Nothing in Webkinz World would ever hurt your Webkinz pets," the press release stated. Webkinz never say die, indeed.

-Neil Hunkins

Lakota Nation, Lakota Pride

As of December 20, 2008 the Lakota Indians have withdrawn from all treaties with the United States and have declared themselves a sovereign nation. Citing numerous violations throughout history by the United States to the signed treaties with the Lakota people, the Lakota have claimed their right to self-governance.

"This is an historic day for our Lakota people," Russel Means of the Lakota people declared in a press release. "United States Colonial Rule is at an end."

The new Lakota nation is located in the Midwest and is composed of nearly half the territory of South Dakota as well as substantial portions of North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Lakota representatives say that if the United States does not enter into dialogue then they will file liens on real estate transactions in the region.


In addition, they have sought recognition from other nations including Venezuela and from indigenous president Evo Morales of Bolivia.

"As a nation we have equal status within the international community," says Lakotan Garry Rowland.

The new nation's official website, www.republicoflakota.com, displays a quote from Mohandas Gandhi: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

Citing this as a motto, the Lakota remain steadfast in the creation of their new state.

-Tyler Peckham



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Arcadia Student Robbed Outside of Kistler Hall

By TYLER PECKHAM
News Editor

GLENSIDE, PA - Around 2 a.m. on January the 31st, 2008 a female Arcadia University student was assaulted by two unidentified males outside of Kistler Hall. According to a flyer released by the University's Public Safety department, the student was ambushed from behind and pushed to the ground where she was then robbed of her purse by the suspects. The two then fled in the direction of the Castle and then left the scene in their vehicle. Fortunately, the purse contained cash only.

At this point the attacked student remains anonymous, but it has been indicated that she has not suffered any serious physical injuries from the altercation.

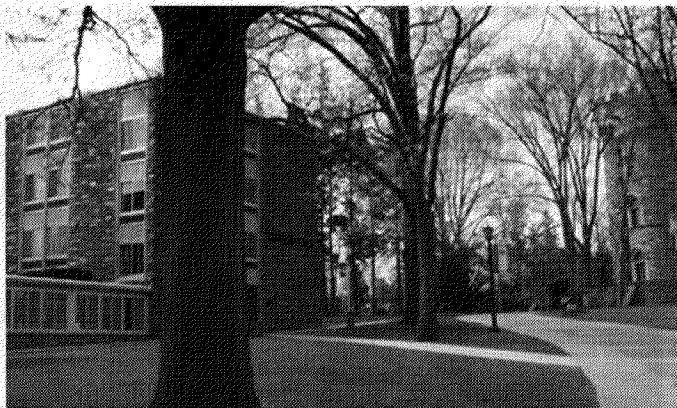
After hearing about the robbery, Public Safety notified the Cheltenham police about the incident.

"We have increased staff patrol and have kept an eye out for the [suspects] car," says Head of Public Safety James Bonner. The car is identified as having very bright halogen head lights and a neon purple under-chassis. Students are encouraged to keep a sharp lookout for the vehicle.

"At this point I see no reason to change policy," Bonner added.

Bonner encourages students to take advantage of the escort services offered by public safety and to remain alert at all times when walking through campus, especially at night. "I think sometimes students forget where they live," says Bonner.

Arcadia University sits just outside the edge of Philadelphia's city limits. In recent years Philadelphia has gained an infamous reputation for its high homicide rates. Last year there were almost 400 homicides in Philadelphia, averaging over one murder a day. As a comparison, New York City, which has a population far greater than Philadelphia's 1.7 million, ended 2007 with



only 294 murders. Although nobody was seriously hurt in the comparatively minor incident at Arcadia, the Philadelphia area can be a dangerous place to walk alone at night.

Currently the case is under investigation by the Cheltenham police department. The access the police have to patrols of Arcadia and the surrounding region as well as access to any reports of similar robberies may add additional information to the case. As of press date there have not been any arrests.

"I know the safety and security offices are focused and will add patrol attention around our buildings," says Arcadia University president Jerry Greiner about the incident. The Cheltenham police have also pledged increased patrols of the campus.

Students are advised to keep an eye out for the suspects' vehicle as well as following the other security precautions. If a serious incident occurs students can call the public safety office directly at 215-572-2999 or reach emergency services at the classic 911. In addition, call boxes are located throughout Arcadia's campus.

Ledger

Continued from page 1

He was cast opposite Mel Gibson in "The Patriot" and was the leading man in "A Knight's Tale."

Rather than cashing in on big-money parts, he chose his roles carefully. Ledger showed a darker side, playing the suicidal son of Billy Bob Thornton in "Monster's Ball."

His controversial role in "Brokeback Mountain" would earn him an Oscar nomination. Ledger played a gay cowboy opposite Jake Gyllenhaal. He also became romantic with his on-screen co-star Michelle Williams and the two had a daughter. They were engaged at the time of the Oscars, but since have separated.

His latest film role is in the high anticipated "Dark Knight", sequel to "Batman Begins" in which he plays the Joker. Others will have to do publicity for the movie. He also played one of the incarnations of Bob Dylan in "I'm Not There."

Hollywood continues to mourn his loss, and he was acknowledged at the Screen Actor's Guild Awards as well as the Sundance Film Festival. Daniel-Day Lewis talked about Ledger on Oprah Winfrey, saying he had "marveled" at Ledger's work.

Indeed, the shocking and tragic death of Heath Ledger has left Hollywood stunned and grieving, a talented actor with what looked to be an amazing career, gone from us too soon.

Opinions and Editorials

Arcadia: A Social Story gone Wrong

By DASHIELL DAVIS
Contributer



I have attended Arcadia University for three years and as those three years have gone by, the area around Arcadia as well as Arcadia itself has gone through some small, but still social life-altering changes.

When I first came to visit Arcadia in 2005, I was a mere freshman, and like most freshman, I just wanted to have some fun. There was a Blockbuster right next to where The Produce Junction now stands. The Dunkin' Donuts on Easton Avenue was open all night, and people were able to use their swipe cards for meal exchange at the Chat until midnight.

At that time I thought that Arcadia was on the move to becoming a bigger, better school- but then why, as more people are attending the school than ever before, is Arcadia and the surrounding area shutting down earlier and earlier?

As a freshman, I tended to participate in a wide variety of school activities. There had been a successful vol-

leyball intramural on Friday nights during my freshman year. It would go till at least 11pm. We would all be quite tired afterwards and would head to a nice social setting to sit, relax and eat- a.k.a. the Chat prior to 2006. It was nice to know that we could swipe our meal exchange cards at night, even after 10 pm.

In fact, at the time, I thought midnight was an early time for the chat shutting down because nearby schools such as Muhlenberg college's similar food establishment is open till 2 am, and the students there can swipe their cards the whole time. In fact, most schools have food places open till at least midnight and usually later, with most students at other universities having the ability of swipe until closing.

Now, two years later, I still play volleyball on Friday nights, but unfortunately, after exerting myself to such an extreme degree of hunger, I do not have the opportunity to get a "free" meal from the Chat. Instead I just walk home, hungry for anything.

As for the surrounding area, Dunkin Donuts now closes at 11 pm, quite an inconvenient time for many late-night college students. It is 4:47 am right now while I write this and I would love to be at Dunkin Donuts instead of sitting in bed, getting more tired as the minutes roll by.

Finally, Blockbuster, the first to go, disappeared before the beginning of my second semester at Arcadia.

Since then, I do not understand how Arcadia can think of expanding itself when people are unhappy with the social situation at the school.

At other universities, they have well placed social areas that people come and maybe sit on couches and play games, while eating food from a Chat-like place. Where is that? And why was a café put in the outer reaches of everything where it only draws in an audience from students going to Brubaker for class. Who designs the social settings around here because they are doing a pretty lousy job.

I like the events that are set up and I have gone to some Bingo nights in my time. But instead of spending \$600 dollars to show a movie in the chat that maybe 20 people will attend, why not help build a more socially welcoming area. Instead of buying big flat screen televisions for random areas around campus that must have cost at least \$2000, put that money to something better, something that students will enjoy for years to come.

If Arcadia wants to show a positive image, stop spending so much money covering up a bad product with a big smiley face and get to the root of the problem. Arcadia students want and need better places to meet, socialize, and hang out- and most of our bedtimes are past midnight. I mean we are paying the money that runs this school right?

Political Preview

All you need to sound informed about the world of politics

By TYLER PECKHAM
News Editor

Well a lot has happened in the world of politics in the last month or so, but I know the attention spans most students have for politics, so let's stick with what really matters: America.

The recent events in the primaries for the Democrats have made it a sad day indeed for the bigot section of the electorate. Although bigots are a demographic traditionally catered to by the extreme right wing of the Republican Party, the recent drop out of John Edwards, who happened to be the only white male protestant running for the Democratic nomination, has pretty much sealed the deal for the trend to continue. On the positive end, it may help them with the more influential demographics of African Americans and women (which I recently found out make up roughly 50 percent of all pos-

sible voters). I feel its about time for Obama and Clinton to really square off anyway, instead of making poor Edwards feel like the child watching his parents bicker during the debates. "Can't you see your tearing my party apart!?" Note the fact that he has not endorsed either of the remaining candidates, I smell a Vice President nominee, and thankfully for Edwards they don't hold primaries for that one.

On the Republican side it seems like everyone has got on the McCain Train which has just steamrolled the last of the Giuliani wagon by winning the Republican primary in Florida. Sorry Rudy you can only push the whole 9/11 thing so far. I'm sure he'll put on his favorite dress and have a night on the town to get over the whole thing anyway. I think Huckabee should probably call it quits, or start properly using his buddy Chuck Norris, and by that I mean a 'Vote (for Huckabee) or Die' campaign that even P Diddy couldn't match. It looks to me like it's either McCain or Romney on the Republican end. Also, do any

Ron Paul voters actually exist? I'm pretty sure it's a group of twenty or so people that only come out at night to put Ron Paul signs in random places like its some kind of joke. Sorry to break the news but he might as well be the Dennis Kucinich of the Republican candidates.

On the lighter side Bush also gave his State of the Union, and despite the recent downturn in the economy, we're still creating more jobs. The question is where, and hopefully the answer is not in India. Green energy is still a priority for the administration, but he failed to mention switch grass this time, which will probably cripple the thousands of grass farmers out their hoping for government subsidies (google it, the stuff exists).

I will try to end this column on a good note every issue, so until next time remember that even though the economy is bad, and the Iraqi government hasn't taken responsibility for their mess of a country (they broke it didn't they?), at least we still aren't in a war with Iran...yet.

Remembering The Struggle With Music

By **RENNETH GREY**
Staff Writer

At 7:30 in the Chat, Key Stone Productions graced the small gathering of students with a musical and video presentation of Dr. King and the Civil Rights struggle. "I really liked the program. I felt that it was very inspirational and educational," commented Student Activist Leader Barbara Huggins.

Though the crowd consisted of approximately twelve people, the audience was held in a trance as they watched footage of blacks who stood for justice with Dr. King. The footage showed Civil Rights Activists continuing to march for freedom and equality, despite police brutality. Some of them were hosed down, attacked by police dogs, beaten by angry crowds, thrown in jail and even brutally murdered.

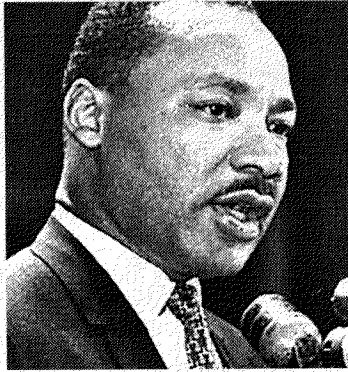
A clip showed Dr. King, explaining to reporters how he was attacked by angry protesters. Nevertheless, Dr. King remained loyal to his philosophy of non-violence. Upon showing the civil rights struggle to the limited audience, Key Productions President Joseph Patterson narrated to the audience, "Would you be willing to suffer this much for the cause of justice? Gives you a lot to think about, right?"

In between President Patterson's narration, the audience was enchanted with song by the Key Stone Production singers Nathan Harmon and Zanora El. Harmon and El performed verses from various gospel songs as well as songs of black unity such as the Negro national anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice" and old hymns such as "Amazing Grace."

"We were hired by Joe (Joseph) Patterson to be apart of this presentation. I believe media is the greatest teacher because it connects people

visibly and auditory to what happened during the Civil Rights era," says male vocalist Harmon.

Female vocalist El who is also a teacher in West Chester shares her appreciation saying, "It a wonderful commemoration of Martin Luther King. There are lots of pictures that no one ever saw in this presentation."



mentions Patterson. Such songs that were sung during the struggle for equality were Ain't no gonna Turn me around and the famous We shall overcome.

The use of gospel music in the Civil Rights era can be attributed to the significant role of the church in African American culture during slavery days. "The church was significant in black culture because the slaves would only have one day off. They would often use that day to worship."

Whether its civil rights of the 1960s or just a group of students and faculty watching video clips of Martin Luther King in 2008 music is the universal language. Through the speeches and the songs the message for humanity was clear. Activist Leader Huggins said, "Fight the good fight, whether its human rights or civil rights."

One reason why Patterson included music in his presentation was because it played an important role during the struggle. "Gospel music gave people of faith, strength to persevere, to help them move on,"

TRAILER FABULOUS

By **KAT KNOCKET**
Staff Writer

We're Baaaaaack Edition

So, winter break has come and gone. Here we are again with a new semester afoot, new professors to feel out, new books to buy... or steal, new people to meet. But in all honesty it's all just a wolf in lambs clothing. Arcadia may be beginning a new semester, but it's still the same antics as before. Deserted campus on weekends, overpriced text books in the book store, same annoying roommate that insists they cannot fall asleep unless Ozzy Osbourne can be heard through the entire hall... building... campus. Yes, we are all Arcadians, but are all something else before we identify ourselves as such. We are from New Jersey, Bucks County, white, black, poor, rich, gay, straight.... ANYTHING before we say Arcadian. Why.

Why come to a school you are ashamed of? Why are you digging yourself into a deeper hole of debt to go to a school we don't want to be at. I hear people all the time complaining, and yea, I do some of that complaining myself. But truly, I love Arcadia. I have met people and had experiences here I would never have had if I had stayed where I am from. It is not the same generic people here, there are some, but over all I think we are all pretty kick ass, unique people. But that's just my opinion. Bottom line of what I'm getting at... if you don't like it here. Transfer. Don't ruin it for the ones that actually want to be here.

Um, what else did I want to hit at... Oh. Cloverfield. I am sure everyone is aware of the anticipated Cloverfield that just opened on January 18th to an impressive 18mil opening night. Sadly, I was one of those fools that ran to the theatre to see this piece of garbage. It is not a monster movie, it is not thrilling, or exciting, or anything that the previews make it out to be. It is a love story. An F-ing stupid love story at that. It's like if Michael Bay tried to make a chick flick. Lots of things blowing up and stupid 20 somethings in New York trying to save the life of a girl who is probably dead to begin with. It is one of the most infuriating movies. I truly did try to give it a chance. But half way through the movie when I realized that the plot isn't about this mysterious monster attacking New York.... It's about this love sick idiot trying to save a girl he had sex with once and realizes he's in love with her. Blow me. I spent 10 bucks to watch something destroy New York not Romeo and Juliet meets Godzilla. Save you money. Go see *There Will Be Blood*. *Juno* is good too.



Welcome to Arcadia, Hyun-Ju!

By **JENNIFER PHILHOWER**
Contributor

If there is one thing you need to know about Hyun-Ju Kim, it's that she is just your ordinary girl. Like many of us that don't have the double-X chromosome, Hyun-Ju loves to shop, talk about boys, and have a good time (and did I mention that she loves to shop?). What sets this fun-loving English Lit Major apart from the rest of her Arcadia family? She's an international exchange student from South Korea, that's what. Hyun-Ju has only been in America for a total of two weeks, and has a lot to say about the beginning of this monumental chapter of her life, as well as her goal of making new friends.

You've only been in America for two weeks? That must be quite an adjustment.

Yeah, but I like it here so far; the landscape is so beautiful. I've already been to New York and Philly. The landscape is just so different from South Korea, but that's why I like it.

What made you decide to transfer to Arcadia?

There was a list of schools to choose from as an exchange student. Of course I wanted to go to the best school, and all the people [I know] who went here liked it. I also liked the idea of a small campus setting and liked that there weren't so many Asians, so I could make lots of American friends. At Arcadia I can learn the English language better, and I like that there are just so many places to visit around the campus.

You already have quite a mastery of the English language. When did you first start learning it?

Maybe when I was 9 or 10 years old, which is 7 or 9 in American years. When I was in elementary, my English wasn't all that good. I wasn't getting it, and I didn't really feel like studying. But when I was eleven my family moved to Canada for a year, and I began to like the language. In Korea, everyone learns English because it is an international language. I really began to like it so much that I chose English Literature to be my major at university. Now as an exchange [student] I came here to improve

my English even more so, because it's hard to do that in South Korea.

American age? What do you mean by that?

I'm not totally sure how to explain it, but for example if you are 9 in America, we add 2 years to that in Korea. While you are 18 when we start university here, in Korea we start at 20.

I bet there are a lot of other fascinating things about your South Korean culture. What kinds of hobbies did you have back at home?

Wow, I don't know what to say. I love shopping, going to see movies. Karaoke is a fave! In Korea, there are lots of Karaoke's. We have to pay to get in, but it's really not all that expensive to sing for an hour or two. I guess that trend's not as widespread here.

There is the occasional karaoke night at a couple local restaurants. But is singing something you're passionate about?

Not really, karaoke's are just so fun though. You don't have to be good at it - you just have a good time with a couple friends. We like to dare each other to sing a lot.

A lot of the activities you did in South Korea are the same as we do here in America. What differences have you seen between life here and life back at home?

There's a big difference between schools! When I was a high school student I always had to wear a uniform, and there were restrictions on hair and makeup. School started at 8 am and ended at 10 at night. The competition for grades is really strict, and I don't think it's like that here. Throughout high school I studied so much. I was always obsessed with it! At university I was free, and I really didn't study. It's a problem - with all the pressure of high school you don't want to study in university. But in comparison I feel that college life is pretty similar.

How is America and our culture viewed in South Korea?

Well you know the U.S. is one of the best countries because it is so rich and has such an influence on other countries, especially Korea. Did you know that the U.S. Army is currently in Korea? The U.S. Army helps protect South Koreans. While they have their purpose, sometimes

we don't like [their presence] because we feel inferior to America. I guess we don't like the troops all that much, but you have to understand why. But still we think America is one of the best countries, and many Koreans are studying here. It's a good country! But now I have to ask you, doesn't your hand hurt by now?

It's killing me! I'll remember the tape recorder next time. But anyway, let's get back on track. Considering what your country feels toward America, what is your opinion on the U.S.?

In general? I really wanted to study here. I'm not interested in political issues, so it's not much of an issue for me I guess. The standard of living is better developed here than it is in Korea. I like the people here, too. While in Korea everyone is always in a hurry to get through life, Americans seem to really enjoy their lives. They take things slower - but I mean that in a good way!

I understand what you're saying. We like to take time and enjoy our life experiences. And based on your experience in America, what do you hope to gain from this?

First of all, I hope to make a lot of American friends. That way I can develop my English and speak more fluently. I also want to adapt to the diverse culture. America is referred to as a cultural melting pot, and I want to really absorb as much as I can. I also hope to become more outgoing through this experience. In Korea I've been really shy, but here I have to be the first one to smile and say hi. I'm not used to that.

I've already had the pleasure of getting to know you, so I already know just how fascinating and fun you really are. What do you want the rest of the students at Arcadia to know about you?

I just want people to know that they can easily approach me, because I want to make friends. Some people don't have interest in me - I'm just the foreigner. We're in second semester, so everyone's already made their friends and don't think they need to make any more. But I want to meet lots of people and learn about their culture, and in the process teach others a thing or two about mine.

Knights' Nook

Questions for the ladies? E-mail them at:
KnightsNook@gmail.com

Arcadia's Wise Women answer ALL of your questions about love, life and the library!

Dear Mistress Fannypack,

My roommate and I live very different lifestyles. He's sort of a goody two-shoes, and I'm... well... not. At first, I thought it didn't bother him, but slowly I'm starting to feel like he's judging me. Little offhand comments tend to come out every time I do something he doesn't quite approve of. I'm starting to feel like I'm living with my parents again. How can I get him to back off a little, when he hasn't technically confronted me directly?

Negative Nancy's Roommate

Dear Badass Roomie,

One of the hardest things you will ever have to deal with is cohabitation. Living with other people can be exceptionally challenging, especially when you don't quite see eye to eye on everything. If your roommate's comments bother you, the best plan of action is to let him know. Tell your roommate how you feel, and if that is too tough for you, keep doing things he doesn't approve of until he does confront you! When you try to deal with your roommate let them know you don't want to feel awkward in your own place, you don't live with your parents for a reason and you don't need a babysitter. Hopefully you two will be able to find a common ground in compromise. If not continue on with your bad self and tell Negative Nancy to lighten up! It's college, not a convent!! Good luck and god speed, may the force be with you!

Mistress Fannypack

Dear Luscious Lana,

I have this problem, I constantly find myself attracted to these dirty guys. They're dirty in a way that is so sexy sometimes I can't help myself. I don't exactly want to date them, but I'd love to be the one that gets to hose 'em off! What should I do?

Dirty Lovin' Extrordinaire

Dirty Lover,

All I got to say is go with it! Who's to say you can't be the one to give 'em a bath! I love me some dirty men too, they may not be the one to bring home to momma but your bed isn't discriminating!

Luscious Lana

Dear Senorita Sincere,

A few weeks ago I found myself entirely too drunk, the moral of that story is I ended up going home with a girl that I don't even know. Now three weeks later I'm feeling like something is wrong 'down there'. What can I do about it?

Scratchy McItchy

Hey Scratchy: GET TO THE DOCTOR!!!! - Senorita Sincere

BODY PIERCINGS AND THE ART OF BODY MODIFICATION

By **JENNIFER PACHECO**
Associate Editor

"I'm so worried it's gonna hurt! What if I look ugly?" exclaims Rachel Shaw, Junior at Penn State. The cause of her anxiety is the looming piercing of her left nostril at Warrior Piercing on South Street in Philadelphia on Saturday, December 8, 2007. After finally getting up the courage to go through with her piercing, she anxiously anticipates the pain as her friends watch laughing about her current status as a pre-med. "I'm sorry, I'm usually not even that bad with needles! I've just never had one in my face!"

Rachel, like many others, has decided to enter the world of body modifications, more specifically piercing. In 2007 The Washington Times reported that about 14 percent of Americans ages 18-50 have body piercings. Compared to ten years ago this number is alarming. With the ever-growing popularity of body piercings many are now calling the art mainstream, although some would still characterize it as an act of rebellion. Cosmetic dermatologist Doris J. Day told The Washington Post in November 2007 that she does "skin cancer checks on my[her] patients every year, and some of the most buttoned-down CEO types -- people you'd never expect to have piercings -- have them where you least expect it." As interest in piercings has been on the rise, not only are those who wish to get pierced talking about it. Legislators and doctors are now examining the art of piercing and their ideas might not seem so objective through the eyes of industry insiders.

Piercing began as a tribal art, and according to senior piercer John Kuchmek at Warrior Piercings in Philadelphia, "The majority of people being pierced today have no idea, the majority of the body piercers piercing today have no idea, they have no ties to the African culture or Native American culture, it's not part of their culture."

In the case of Shaw, her nose piercing can be passed as part of her Indian culture.

She explained after the pierce that her mother still has the jewelry she wore as a teen, but at the same time she admitted the piercing wasn't entirely cultural, saying, "My friends talked me into it!"

Arcadia University sophomore Aime Zimmerman began her body modification at 13 and unlike Shaw, she took it into her own hands. "I began piercing my ears ... just sticking whatever through them, I ended up with about 6 holes in my one ear and 5 in the other, all done myself. I tried piercing my bellybutton myself once" she giggles, "That was a bad idea! That was mostly because my mom wouldn't let me get it done and I was underage so I couldn't get it signed off." As she's now overage she has gone on to stretch one ear piercing, get 3 micro-dermals (piercings that use anchor like jewelry and have only one point of entry) and 2 surface piercings (piercings that go through flat parts of the skin such as the arms or nape).

Whether the modification is more accepted, like the nostril or navel, or more extreme like an implant the success of the piercing depends on the competency of both the piercer and the client. With more and more people getting pierced every year one would think they are aware of what they're getting into but that seems to not be the case. According to American Academy of Dermatology member Dr. Laumann body piercing bring many more health complications than tattoos do. The Washington Post reported in 2007 that most medical experts recommend either going to a body piercer or just not getting a piercing at all. Do-it-yourself piercing is unfortunately very common, especially among those who are under the legal age for piercing. While most health professionals are against piercing completely any responsible piercer will tell you piercings are only a cause for concern if done incorrectly and not given the proper jewelry and

aftercare.

Senior piercer John Kuchmek has been practicing for 6 years and is certified by the city of Philadelphia having passed certificate programs on blood born pathogens and proper sterilization techniques, following up with his recertification every three years. Through his rigorous training he has become very knowledgeable on the art of piercing and the regulations of Pennsylvania. He feels that body piercers have become a lot more educated than they were in the past when it was such a new thing. The world of piercing seems to share many universal rules which can be demonstrated on websites like www.bmezzine.com and the homepage

of the Association of Professional Piercers, www.safepiercing.com. In his opinion, the aftercare is what sets most shops apart. He explains Warrior's aftercare approach by saying, "This shop differs - we have a more scientific approach and scientific method to the way things are done."

Their aftercare regime is designed like the medical aftercare of external fixateurs, which are screws outside of the body used to bring bones back together after breaks. Kuchmek said, "Warrior has been soap and water since '94." Doctors who give out the same information cannot argue with that.

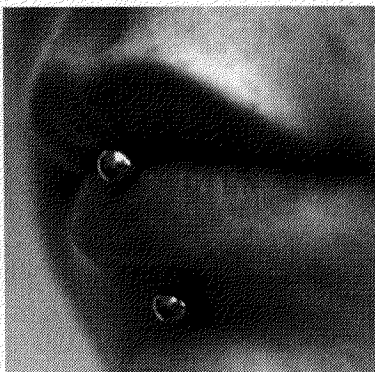
Unfortunately that hospital-like aftercare isn't provided universally in every piercing place. Most shops have their own care guidelines and many only give oral instructions. In Pennsylvania, the only aftercare regulation in the proposed House Bill 615 on body modification was that "written instructions shall advise the customer to consult a physician at the first sign of infection." When it comes to physicians most general practitioners and others not specialized in dermatology have no medical training in dealing with piercings. Claire Washington, Director of Health Services at Arcadia University, feels that

the lack of knowledge on piercings in the field of health care is a clear weakness. "We need to stay current and so we're not staying current, when I first began as a nurse ... piercing wasn't as popular as it is now so there weren't as many problems to troubleshoot." Her only training in the subject has come from a few recent seminars at conferences, and that is more than most doctors have.

Most pierced people have come to find their information from other pierced people through the internet if their piercers or doctors could not provide adequate information. Online forums like livejournal.com communities and other body piercing message boards often tell people to treat piercings with over saturated solutions of salt and water which can damage the skin surrounding the pierce and other soaps that have harmful chemicals that take away the good bacteria for healing. In some cases people are advised to use tea tree oil which is actually for fighting fungus. The improper aftercare can prolong the healing process or make the pierce unable to heal at all. Kuchmek equates the "more holistic approach of some piercers" as the main source of confusion in their clientele.

Piercers and doctors share the common goal of keeping their patients healthy. Any reputable piercer will make aftercare directions clear and offer to look at the piercings free of charge in case any complications occur. Doctors want to keep their patients healthy but their lack of knowledge in the specific field of piercing may damage the patient's piercing in the long run. Many doctors can confuse a new piercing's redness with signs of early infection. The medical industry and body piercing industries clearly need to come together to form satisfactory guidelines in the care of patients with piercings.

Although piercings may not be so popular with the health field it seems that adults and teens alike will not stop getting pierced anytime soon. In the words of Amie Zimmerman, "It's a black and white thing, you love it or you hate it, and I love it!"



Non-Traditional Students

These schools are hoping to bring alumni back to campus by offering them opportunities to audit classes, cultivate new skills, and to connect with new students as mentors. Though Arcadia isn't planning a retirement community, it is catering to non-traditional students with the Continuing Education program.

According to the University's Web site, The Continuing and Professional Studies' goal is "to serve adult learners who may want to advance in their careers, keep up to date in their professional field or pursue degrees and transition to a new career path." One of the newer programs is the Accelerated Business Degree Program, which program director Bill Deane described as "an entrepreneurial program... at this point. But we expect to break even on the program in about two and a half years." The average student in the program has a year or more worth of college credits and Deane described Arcadia's potential market as "all of Philadelphia; Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the United States and it is 93rd on the list of people with degrees." Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia recently stated that there are more than 70,000 people in Philadelphia who started college but didn't complete their degrees. Arcadia and other local colleges are creating opportunities for many of them to come back to school.

Some adult learners decided to come back to school after September 11th for career reasons. Edmonds found that her photography career was slowing after the tragedy, and when Arcadia alum Peggy Shelly found her-

self without a job at 52 years old, she decided to go to college.

Shelly began her degree at Bucks County Community College. She worked for both an airline and a travel agency but "after September 11th I was laid off along with hundreds and thousands of others in the travel industry. I decided to take three months off in order to explore my options. During that time I discovered that Bucks County Community College was offering tuition-free credit up to 30 credits for anyone who was a county resident who had been laid off in 2001, so I decided that I would go for a semester." Once she had 15 credits, she decided to go for the rest of the free credits and ultimately attained her Associates Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Humanities.

Coming to Arcadia was her next step because she had heard good things about the English program. Once at Arcadia she knew it was the perfect fit after meeting with her first faculty member, Dr. Tom Hemmeter. Once enrolled she found the students were very accepting and the faculty were supportive. "No one ever made me feel like I was not a part of the group -- I was always just accepted as a member of the class."

According to Stacey Edmonds, many professors she has had feel older students add something extra to classes. The article "Grandpa Goes to College" also reported that "Educators have found that insight and experience that older students bring to the classroom can invigorate discussions."

Like Shelly, Edmonds also feels that the

Continued from page 1

Arcadia faculty are wonderful, especially towards non-traditional students. In a philosophy class she has taken the professor would especially enjoy her opinions because with her answers came more experience than her late-teen, early-20s classmates could offer. The age gap is a little more apparent to her than it was to Shelly. "As far as the students, some of them are a little wary of me." She finds that her age can be a little isolating but she does thoroughly enjoy her classes saying, "I think Arcadia has a lot of support for people like me."

As people are interested, schools are delivering. "Heading Back to College: Universities are doing more than ever to attract older students," an article from U.S. News and World Report from November of 2007, by Kim Clark reported "The number of college students ages 40 to 64 has jumped by almost 20 percent to nearly 2 million in the past decade. And those numbers are expected to keep growing. As the demographic tide of older students begin to rise, a growing number of colleges, charities, companies, and government are starting to accommodate - and even encourage adults who return to the classroom."

Although non-traditional students may not be straight out of high school, they're still just as, if not more prepared for college than traditional students. As Stacey Edmonds said, "You can teach an old dog new tricks - I know that sounds cliché but it's true."

Big Comedian: Tough Crowd

By **RENNETH GREY**
Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 the herd of Arcadia students humor was held in the hands of the opening act comedian "Matt" who amused the crowd with the facts of his life. "It never really bothered me that I was not good at Sports because I didn't like sports anyway. However my mother keeps telling me, 'you know son, you're dad always wanted a son that was a pro at sports and your not. Just look at your sisters,'" joked Matt.

After Matt warmed up the crowd, it was time for the star to take his place. He was no other than Cal Verducci. His act consisted of imitations of celebrities and cartoon characters such as Cartman, Peter Griffin, and Ms. Garrison. A few of the Arcadia students were amused. Yet others sat stiff so he would move on to other acts. The jokes he tend to get the most laughter out of were his crude sexually charged muppet imitations. "Now I present to you Ms. Piggy and Kermit the Frog getting it on." Finally the whole audience burst into laughter at the crude humor involving Muppet characters.

"At first the audience were tough, but after awhile they loosen up," mentions Verducci.

Verducci in his act also displayed some boldness by making many comments on ethnic groups such as the strange phenomenon of the "Hindu Boxer" or "his gay uncle." Though many students laugh at his jokes involving homosexuals including, "this is that guy boning me in the parking lot," some took offense.

"I wanted to punch him in the face for so many gay jokes! Some of them were funny but he went overboard," mentions freshman Trevor White. In many of the jokes Verducci took much liberty involving the homosexual community especially when using the word "faggot" a lot.

Verducci bold style of telling ethnic or homosexual jokes is nothing new to comedy. Other comedian who uses similar style is Carlos Menica. In his show called Mind of Mencia he defies any form of political correctness. When referring to homosexuals he uses faggots and blacks he uses the word nigga.

Though brash style is similar to Mencia's, Verducci he was not one of his influences. "My influences are Chris Farley, Dave Atell, and Dana Carvey." He hints at his influences when imitating Chris Farley in a stand up joke.

Though somewhat offensive, Verducci was successful in getting laughs out of the crowd. Student Programming Board member Ed Chrzastek supports this saying, "Representatives from SPB went in the fall and liked what they saw so they recommended him for Arcadia."

10 Reasons The Naysayers Are Wrong About Arcadia

By **JESS BROWN**
Associate Editor

From the day I stepped foot on Arcadia's campus I have heard over and over again how much it sucks. The parking sucks (true though), the hours at the chat suck, the amount of money it actually costs to go here sucks etc. I can go on believe me. Now Arcadia does have its many flaws and there are quite a few however after talking with some fellow students I found that Arcadia does actually have a few good qualities.

10) Right down the street is Wawa. Who doesn't love that? It's like a mini Disney land without the rides and cartoon characters, although I have encountered some people that could of came right out of a *Family Guy* episode.

9) Cliché to say but the castle is pretty decent and one of our campus's most famous attractions. Everyone who visits has something to good to say about it. In fact that's part of the lure.

8) The city is a quick train ride or drive away. You can go and explore all that it has to offer. A nice way to break out of the campus's bubble once in a while.

7) Apartment housing. Yes getting caught for being too loud or written up for candles is a pain yet many colleges do not offer whole apartments to their students. And it definitely beats having to stay in a tiny dorm room.

6) The midnight breakfast. You may never step foot in the dining whole for the whole semester until its time for finals because as we all know the midnight breakfast is soon to follow. The lines are miles long but we don't care. Its breakfast, it's free, it's a chance to procrastinate on our studying.

5) The familiar faces. A little bit on the

cheesy side but it's nice to be able to recognize some people and know who you go to school with. Being able to walk on campus and not always be surrounded by complete strangers is a benefit of going to a smaller university.

4) The intimacy of the campus. Yeah it would be nice if the campus wasn't just a circle surrounding the soccer field however when winter storms come around consider it a blessing.

3) You are actually a person and not a number. At many of the larger universities it is harder to stand out. With so many students enrolled you no longer recognized as an individual. Your Id number represents you.

2) This coincides with the intimacy of the classes. Since the classes here are smaller you are able to stand out and the faculty actually knows who you are. Therefore you can separate yourself from others and get more from the professors.

1) Last but not least the study abroad programs. One of the reasons many students even go here to begin with. Arcadia provides a program in 13 different countries with over 100 programs. It allows you to explore other cultures and share in memorable experiences that will always be with you.

So no Arcadia is not the highly stylized CW version of a college campus but it definitely has its perks.



Why do you love Arcadia?
Why do hate Arcadia?
Tell us how you feel. Send us five reasons you love or hate Arcadia, and the best answers will win a \$10 Wawa gift certificate.

Send entries to:
arcadiatower@gmail.com with "5Reasons" in the subject line.

Things You Shouldn't Do In Glenside-V-Day Edition

By JENNIFER PACHECHO
Associate Editor

Around this time of the year many Arcadians have found themselves in relationships both old and new. While college dating tends to be a bit casual that doesn't mean it has to be monotonous as well. Here are a few things around campus and Glenside that could spice up your newest hook-up, especially for Valentine's Day.

1. Take a stroll down to Humphrey's and point out which insects and rodents you have seen in your dorm room.

It's no secret that many of the dorms are what some would call infested with gross things; why not share them with your love ones! (Sharing flies with your partner is better than sharing sti's!)

2. Take a bus down to the Old Country Buffet and eat until you're nauseas.

Everyone knows that most relationships can provide both massive emotional rollercoaster's and massive amounts of weight gain, get a head start on the extra pounds next Saturday night, and at least the buffet guarantees dessert!

3. Take your next date to the game room.

A little pool could lead to a little more play next time, how your partner handles cues and balls could be a great judge for the future of your relationship!(Take your minds out of the gutter!)

4. Go to a "romantic" movie in the Chat.

Nothing spells date like the recent showings of Harry Potter and the smell of grease that lurks in the Chat. Maybe after the date you can stroll by the game room to play some aforementioned pool, then share a late night quesadilla. (Swipe it on your meal plan of course!)

5. Send your sweetheart a cute message through campus mail.

A nice card or note can make the day of your newest conquest; sweet gestures can move things along very quickly! Maybe you can even spring for a book of stamps if you get there before 4:30!

There are many nice things to do for that new object of affection in your life if these aren't your style. Have fun with your "dating partners" and remember to always use protection! (Protection of course meaning sunscreen, the sun's harmful rays are apparent in the winter as well!)



Is It Abstinence If You are Not Trying to Abstain?!

By ANONYMOUS

So you're a female at Arcadia and you're single, that's a real shocker! Pretty much every girl I know here, myself included are single. We're fun, normal, pretty girls who just don't have a boyfriend and or friend with benefits. After some deliberation a council of single Arcadia women has decided, the problem isn't with us, it's with the "men" of Arcadia!

The first problem is that there aren't any. Our population of males seems to be in as much trouble as the population of bald eagles. If you blink while sitting on the Walk of Pride about 5 guys seem to disappear. We try to find non-Arcadians but even they are scarce in the vast wasteland called Glenside.

The second problem seems to be that 5 of the 10 total men at Arcadia seem to be attached to one, if not more than one girl. Seriously, guys seem to be a hot commodity; as soon as one is free there is a savage Arcadia female there to snatch him up again! They're insane rabid creatures who don't get enough male attention; that could possibly be why some are single.

The final problem is that some of the Arcadia male population is just not dateable. Sorry, I had to throw that out there, but some of the guys are just not ready for what women have to offer, or just not attractive enough. I also will take into consideration that a fairly substantial part of the female population might be updateable as well, but in that case, the boys that are updateable should start with those girls. They're the girls that may not be so pretty, but I'm sure they have great personalities. Maybe.

Another thing, a lot of guys who are okay to decent looking think that they deserve supermodel girlfriends. Here's a news flash: YOU'RE NOT THAT ATTRACTIVE, DON'T THINK YOU DESERVE SOME GORGEOUS GIRL! Seriously, some of these guys have this porn fantasy that they deserve some Barbie doll that will have sex with them all day and make them sandwiches. GET OVER THAT!

Sorry, went on a little tangent there. Back to the point, the point is, we need a larger, more attractive male population with some better personalities that are preferably single. Please Office of Enrollment Management, make a quota of attractive guys for Fall 2008. It will make the entire campus a brighter, happier place because let's face it, sex makes everyone happy.

Hopefully the guy quota will be met next year, but in the mean time if you're looking for a Valentine, look no further than Brubaker II. Word on the street is that the construction workers LOVE college girls!

6 Ways To Make And Break:

Your New Year's Resolutions

By DEREK TRACEY
Sports Editor

Every holiday brings about certain levels of the same feelings; either a little bit of dread and loathing, and then a certain amount of excitement and happiness. By far, New Years Eve has the strongest on both sides. Some love it, while others, such as myself, despise it. Every since my freshman year in high school when someone told me that the way that I would spend New Years is the way that I would spend the rest of the year. I believe my exact words are something that I can't say in print, but the sentiment was "oh crap" followed closely by "I need to make this one count and find someone to kiss at midnight....eve if it kills me."

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has felt this during New Years, and if I am please don't inform me of this factoid, cause know-one wants to see a grown man cry.

But once the ball drops and the night slowly comes to a end at around 2ish, one part of the dreading has finished and yet another takes its place. The ever-feared New Years Resolution. A concept that must have been invented by an overachiever with far too much time on their hands....and a concept that causes us to feel tremendous amounts of guilt and failure all throughout January. So here are some ideas of easy to achieve resolutions, as well as some small rationalizations that can be used to break them.

Goal 1: "The Get Fit Thing"

Looking in the mirror and cringing is never a good thing, per-say. And everyone has certain aspects of himself or herself that they would like to change. Therefore, one of the most common resolutions for anyone, any age, and any gender, is to hit the gym and either loose the weight or pack on the bulk. For guys, the abs and the chest are the most wanted, and the girls seem to line up on the cardio machines and never leave. (believe me, I can never get on the elliptical) If done correctly, this could be a very do-able goal. All it takes is a half hour a day, and if you divide up the exercises by every other day, it's not hard to do it. Yet, for some reason, come the beginning of February, your sentiment has gone from totally stoked into mildly interested, or mildly interested into "what the hells the gym???"

Solution: "If You Wake Me, I Swear I'll.....I'll....."

The alarm goes off at 8..... "I don't think so." The alarm goes off again at 8:45..... "five more minutes, seriously this time." Now the alarm goes off at 9:30 and your late for class and clearly not going anywhere except to the coffee pot. By far this is one of the most common problems for everyone, but especially college students. For us, going to sleep at 1:00 am is an early night. An average night seems to wrap up at about 3:00, and I can't even recall the time I drag myself home on the weekends; like 5-ish. So, clearly the "starting the day off right" with a workout mentality has been shot down long before even the 11 o'clock Wawa run. The solution, work out in the afternoon. Don't wait until after dinner unless your a pro who knows they're not going to flake out at the last minute. My suggestion is to do it at some point in the afternoon, between 1-5. Classes are pretty crazy, and you might not be free every day in the afternoon, but it doesn't take long and it's a nice way to chillax after getting your 8 page research paper ripped

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to shreds by your professor. One other note, another excuse is waiting till the start of the week, IE Monday, to start your new regimen. Don't fall for this, because if this excuse works on you once, Monday will never come. Guaranteed. Whatever day of the week you start going to the gym makes it your Day 1, and there is no rule that says Day 1 can't be a Thursday. It's just the starting point.

Goal 2: The "Get Organized" Thing

You say that this year will be different. That you won't end up with your desk being a total mess, and papers from every single class all ending up in the same notebook.(or if your like me, crumbled in a ball at the bottom of your backpack.)

For the first few weeks, you might actually succeed, but one day you'll be in a rush and it's all down hill from then on. Just like the straw that broke the camel's back, all it takes is one essay and the rest just fall in, or in this case out, of place.

Solution: Where's My...My...My Everything?!?"

No matter how hard you try, the bad news is that, to some extent, this will happen and you will become inevitably messy. It's college student nature, but the solution to this problem is a very simple one at that. Don't let that one paper screw everything up. Give yourself a little extra time before each class, and a lot of extra time in the morning, and you'll be fine. Nobody tries to become messy, but messiness is spawned from rushing around. Other things you can do are to throw away anything you haven't looked at for a month. Don't bother going through it; just toss it. If you've lived without it for a month, you won't miss it now and it takes little or no time to brown bag it and head for the trash. One more thing, one of those desk organizers from Wal-Mart is a great buy and since it sits on-top of your desk, your more likely to use it.

Goal 3: The "I'm Not Making The Same Mistake Twice" Thing

A New Year traditionally means a fresh start, with new opportunities and new mistakes. However, on a small college campus such as this one, it seems very common that the mistakes we made the semester or years before can still creep back into our lives. At Arcadia, the more you try to avoid seeing someone, the more you see them everywhere you go. The Ex factor is the best example of this. When you first break up, it's hard seeing them. But after a while, you get over it, more or less. After just enough time has past, you suddenly see them somewhere and their nice to you. They say something, and before you know it, your thinking about them again. Many of us vow never to get mixed up in a relationship with them of any kind. However, for some reason, our past hookups and relationships have a power over us like no other. A power, that if we're not careful, could ruin any possible relationship that we are on the verge of having.

Solution: "Really....I'm Not.....Seriously Never Again"

I'll be honest, this was one of my resolutions and there is no easy solution to it. Ex's need to be regarded similar to that of mosquitoes; you can't get rid of them and their impossible to hide from. There are things that you can do, however, to minimize their influence and their damage. The most important thing to remember is that it will never be like it was. Trying to force it, or even expect it, will bring nothing but drama.

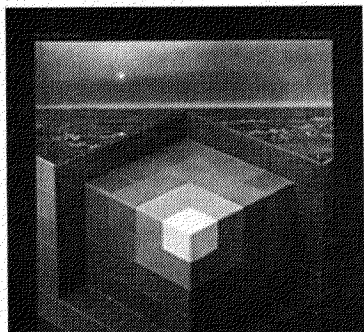
More to come on this relationship issue because one, similar to our ex's, is never enough.

He Said She Said The Tower's Record Review Column

By JACOB SCALICI
Entertainment Editor

By KAITLYN FOTI
Editor-in-Chief

Black Mountain
In the Future



He Said: There are tons of newer bands that throw out the classic rock revival card, but very few of them actually do anything more than half ass the formula put forth by bands like Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, or Black Sabbath. On the other hand Vancouver's Black Mountain are about as good a throw back as there is. With *In the Future* the band takes equal parts Sabbath and Zeppelin and splashes them on a canvas of stoned out fuzz guitar, dueling vocals, and Doors like key arrangements. Frontman/guitarist Stephen McBean's raspy lo-fi voice coupled with some stellar riffs are the foundation of Black Mountain's sound, while some of the most sublime drumming on wax and co-vocalist Amber Webber's dead on Grace Slick quiver make *In the Future* murky and yet inviting. Songs like "Wucan" and "Stormy High" are power packed classic cuts with big riffs and a rowdy rhythm, while the fifth track "Stay Free" is crazy catchy and beautifully done. In the Future peaks with the 16 minute opus "Bright Lights", a song aimed strait at the problems of modern war, preaching the horror of what could be with a myriad of solos and solid drumming. *In the Future* sounds a lot like the past but without being a redundant stale copy, it's a step in the right direction for a genre too often overdone.

4.5/5

She Said: If The Decemberists and Led Zeppelin had a love child, and then that child grew up and smoked a lot of pot and read a lot of Tolkien, it would be named Black Mountain. The new album shows the band's love for the fundamentals of rock; you could even go so far as to call them classic rock revivalists. Songs like "Evil Ways" and the opening track "Stormy High" seem to come straight from the '70s. Longer, heavier songs like "Tyrants" (8:02) and "Bright Lights" (16:41) make you flat out wish you were listening to this on vinyl instead of iTunes.

4.5/5



The Loved Ones
Keep Your Heart



He Said: Take a full speed pace, old school punk guitar, and a vocal style that is not only easy to listen to but carries a certain tinge of down home snarl and you've got Philly's own The Loved Ones. With pieces of bands like Paint It Black, Kid Dynamite, and The Explosion, The Loved Ones are an amalgam of new millennium punks and it shows as *Keep Your Heart* tears by with all the simplicity and power a great punk album needs. Singer Dave Hause takes pointers from bands like The Bouncing Souls and Less Than Jake with his straight up voice and blue collar song writing. Songs like "Suture Self" and "Benson and Hedges" come out swinging and never stop. The Loved Ones have a firm grasp on what it means to be a legitimate punk band in the world today and while *Keep Your Heart* is a great start their soon to be released new album *Build and Burn* will further solidify the band's prowess for structurally original punk rock.

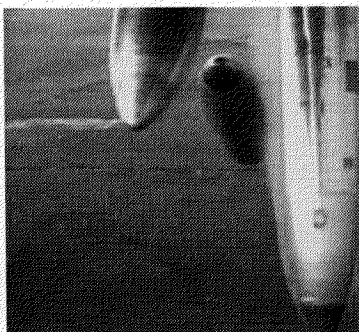
3.5/5

She Said: The Loved Ones sound a little like every pop-punk band you've ever heard. However, if you're going to go for a pop-punk band, this is the one you should be listening to. Grittier than others in the genre, but just as catchy, if not more so. Better yet, they're a Philadelphia band and a favorite at the First Unitarian, where they frequently give powerhouse, non-stop punk performances. On *Keep Your Heart*, every song is given equal treatment. From the radio-ready "Jane", dealing with the personal failure felt at the end of a relationship ("I betray a piece of your heart every time I go away/ But redemption comes harder when you're choosing not to pray"), to "Benson and Hedges", an ode to a life misspent, *Keep Your Heart* is introspective, but not too much so, catchy but not in the mass-produced way. For a pop-punk band, The Loved Ones get it just right.

4/5



Godspeed You! Black Emperor
Yanqui U.X.O.

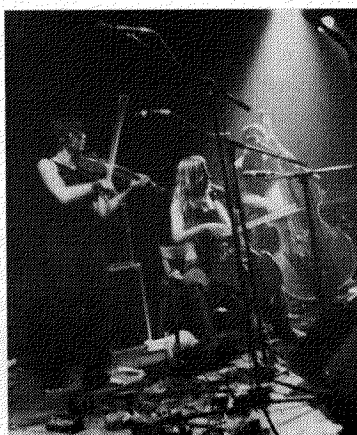


He Said: Released in 2002 *Yanqui* (Spanish for Yankee) *U.X.O.* (Unexploded Ordnance) is the latest full-length release from Canadian instrumentalists Godspeed You! Black Emperor. With their previous three releases the band created heavy albums full of theatrical twists and turns coupled with sound clips, speeches and general background noise that gave the listener a glimpse of movie like proportions (listen to F# A# (infinity) to get a grasp on that idea). That's why many fans saw the minimalist, cold approach of *Yanqui* to be somewhat lazy. Songs like the album's 16 minute opener "9-15-00 (part 1)" show flashes of the lush grandiose Godspeed only to give way to hopeless viola solos that mark the album's bleak commencement. After the first track the basic guitar, bass, drum formula makes appearances creating hypnotic lulls that eventually give rise to an insurgence of instruments and lush textures ala' the album's fourth track "MFER=Redeemer." The music is amazing, but it is a step down for the usually haunting Godspeed.

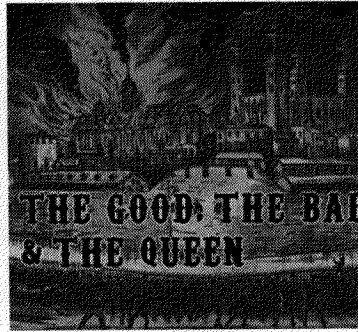
3/5

She Said: In this day and age, many of us do not have the attention span for purely instrumental music. Godspeed You! Black Emperor does not cater to that deficit, that's for sure. Listening to *Yanqui U.X.O.* is an exercise in patience, but the payoff is an interesting mix of orchestral instruments with a rock sensibility and an almost surreal journey through five songs, averaging about 16 minutes apiece. Dreary, but oddly soothing, this album would make a terrific soundtrack for a trip to Oz, but not the kind of music that is going to get a party started.

3.5/5



The Good, The Bad, and The Queen



He Said: With pieces of The Gorillaz, Blur, The Clash, and The Verve, English rock super group *The Good, The Bad, and The Queen* have the ingredients for sleek hook laden rock. With danceable beats and a heavy hit of everything British *TGTBATQ* find the perfect melding for a mesmerizing melodic trip through the days and nights of London. With production and percussion handled by the witty songsmith Danger Mouse and the voice behind two of the biggest English bands out there, the defunct Blur and the virtual band The Gorillaz, Damon Albarn handling vocals *TGTBATQ* is a beautiful album. "History Song" will be rattling through your brain for the rest of the day while only a few songs "Nature Springs" knocks it out. The album just has sonic candy track after track. The sound is folk to the bone but the sudden burst of electronics, programming, and vocal samples are the left turns that make *TGTBATQ* so unique. Bottom line here is if you like melody and originality this album is the exit you need to take.

4.5/5

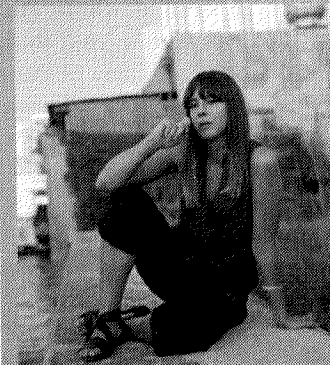
She Said: Although technically the band is unnamed, *The Good, The Bad & The Queen* has been making quite a name for itself. The concept album is the brain-child of Blur and Gorillaz front man Damon Albarn, along with The Clash bassist Paul Simonon, The Verve guitarist Simon Tong, and Nigerian percussionist Tony Allen. The eclectic backgrounds of the four create a unique sound that is meant to represent life in modern London. Dreary at times, fun at others, curious and exciting, the album accomplishes just that. While creating a stir in the UK, *The Good, The Bad & The Queen* is possibly the most underrated album of 2007 in the United States.

5/5



Loud Downtown
Who's, Where, When in Philly

Cat Power
Friday Feb. 8th
At The Starlight Ballroom
460 North 9th Street
Philadelphia, PA



Poison The Well and The Chariot
Feb. 14th
At The First Unitarian Church
2125 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA



Genghis Tron (record release show)
Feb. 21
At The First Unitarian Church
2125 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA



The Loved Ones
Feb. 24
At The First Unitarian Church
2125 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

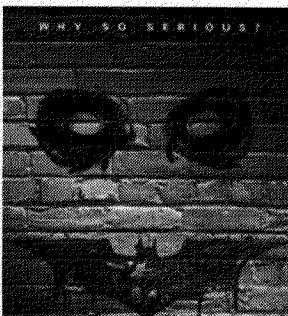


The Most Anticipated of 2008

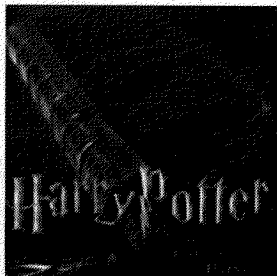
Upcoming On The Big Screen

By STACI CAMBELL
Staff Writer

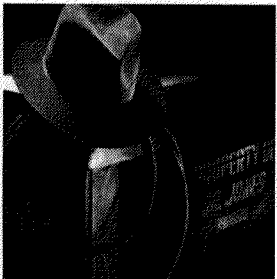
1. The Dark Knight- "Why so serious?" asks the eerie tagline of this much-anticipated continuation of director Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*. With Christian Bale back as Batman, and Heath Ledger as the Joker, this movie is expected to draw in serious crowds. Batman teams up with law enforcement to bring an end to organized crime in Gotham, but the notorious Joker isn't making it easy on them. The sudden death of Heath Ledger caused some questions about whether the movie would be completed, but Ledger was reportedly finished filming, and the movie will come out July 18th. But the Joker, already a terrifying villain, will take on a new dimension.



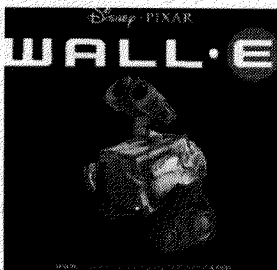
2. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince-The magic of Harry Potter has been breaking records in the box office since it began, and this movie is expected to be no different. Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint return as adolescent heroes, now in their sixth year. Director David Yates, who brought us *The Order of the Phoenix*, also returns. Set to be released November 21st.



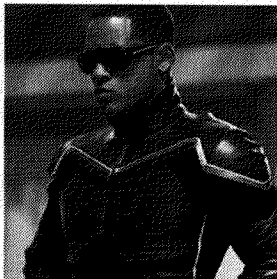
3. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull-Harrison Ford returns as our favorite archaeologist, under Spielberg's direction. The movie is still in production, set to be released on October 29. It is rumored that this time Indiana will be facing aliens, but details about the film have been kept secret. (Speaking of aliens-David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson return in an X-Files sequel this year, released July 25th.)



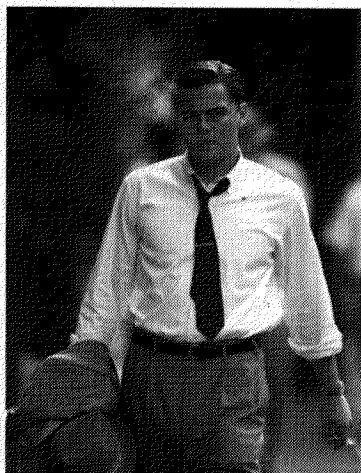
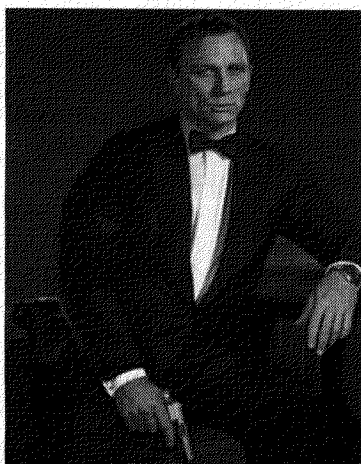
4. Wall-E- Disney-Pixar have teamed up yet again to take something not so cute and turn it into every child's dream-pet, in the vein of *Shrek* and *Ratatouille*. This time it's a wide-eyed robot, wandering a deserted Earth alone for 700 years in search of some meaning in his mechanical life. For those of us who still secretly love *Finding Nemo*, *Wall-E* looks to become a new classic. Set to be released June 27th. Also for kids this year-*The Spiderwick Chronicles*.



5. Hancock- Superheroes are popular this year (*Iron Man*, another *The Incredible Hulk*) but Will Smith as the title character in *Hancock* looks to be a new take on superherodom. Peter Berg (*Lions for Lambs*, *Smokin' Aces*) directs this flick about a street-smart hero with a questionable reputation. Set to be released on July 2, *Hancock* is expected to draw big crowds, possibly only because Will Smith is the main character.



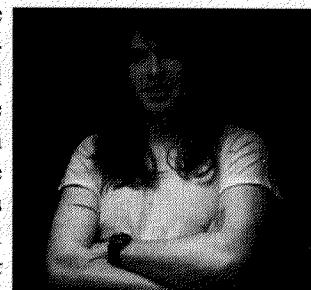
Also hitting the box office this year are television hits like *Sex and the City* and *Get Smart* tackle the big screen, along with another *Star Trek*, which is reportedly going ahead without William Shatner's approval. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet reunite for the first time since *Titanic* in the 1950's drama *Revolutionary Road*. Daniel Craig returns as 007 in *Bond 22*. And a new comedy starring Jack Black, *Be Kind, Rewind*, pays homage to the lost media form that is the VHS-most notable because those of us in college now are of the last generation who will even understand what that phrase means.



Must Have Music for 2008

By JACOB SCALICI
Entertainment Editor

1. Andrew W.K.- *Young Lord*: The last time we in the good ol' U.S. of A heard anything official from the always pumped party animal Andrew W.K. was 2003's sophomore release *The Wolf*. Since then AWK has been busy on tour as a motivational speaker, working as the leader of the Bamboozle Pep Rally, as well as recording and releasing a more experimental album in Korea. (2006's *Close Calls with Brick Walls*) Now comes the good news, 2008 will mark AWK's return to the party here in the states with at least one possibly two new albums released this year. The first is the awesomely titled *Young Lord*, an album that AWK has said will hearken back to his 2001 major label debut, one of the most ballsy, fun albums of all time, *I Get Wet*. This alone has the W.K. fan base on the edge of seats. While no exact release date has been picked rumor has it *Young Lord* could drop by summer with the second album another more experimental cut *The Carrier* possibly landing by winter. If things work out the way they seem 2008 will be a sweet year. Long live the party!



2. Deathcab for Cutie- *Narrow Stairs*: There aren't too many things coming out in 2008 that could achieve the iconic status that this album could. With Ben Gibbard's songwriting being as good as it is and Chris Walla emerging album after album there is no telling where Deathcab could go next. 2003's *Transatlanticism* spoke of feeling lost while its follow up 2005's *Plans* spoke of losing someone close, this time around Gibbard and Walla promise a curve ball. *Narrow Stairs* could be out by summer or fall but either way that's far too long for any Deathcab fan.



3. The Mars Volta- *The Bedlam in Goliath*: A year and a half ago the prog rock geniuses of The Mars Volta released their third album since 2001 with *Amputechture*. Unfortunately for Cedric Bixler-Zavala and Omar Rodriguez-Lopez the combination of major label pressure and a carousel of musicians restricted *Amputechture* causing many fans to wonder if the always volatile group would implode. With a little time under their belts and a new drummer, Bixler-Zavala and Rodriguez-Lopez are set to release *The Bedlam in Goliath* on January 29th. A few tracks have leaked on the internet including the first single "Wax Simulacra", in which TMV sound more fresh and dynamic than they have on either of their last two releases including what many believe is their best album *Frances the Mute*. New drummer Thomas Pridgen has a knack for speedy staccato rhythms, a perfect compliment to Rodriguez-Lopez' usual shred-tastic guitar work. *The Bedlam in Goliath* has the ability to really be a breakthrough album for the band and the genre.



4. Fear Before The March of Flames: Though there isn't too much information flying around about the album's title nor has there been any music released as of now but come fall 2008 a band who's last album 2006's *The Always Open Mouth*, was on the cusp of something new and different will release their follow up. For the first time in the history of FBTMOF the bands line-up underwent no changes between albums, bringing them into the studio focused and ready to expand on their hardcore meets *White Pony* era Deftones mixture. Only time will tell if this is the album that brings Fear Before to the forefront of heavy, interesting music.



5. Set Your Goals: There aren't too many concrete facts out at this point regarding the pop-punk/hardcore outfits sophomore release, the follow up to 2005's *Mutiny!* but its safe to say it'll have a few things. This band has some catchy tunes but they also have some of the best breakdowns out there (check out the song "Goonies Never Say Die" be prepared) those alone make it worth a listen. Positive messages, dueling vocals, and hilarious concepts (it was pirates last time) add up to only good things for the band. If it ain't broke don't fix it.



The Video Games Just On The Horizon for 2008...

By KATIE REILEY
Staff Writer

1. Super Smash Bros. Brawl (Wii)- Though this game should have been included in the Best of 2007 section, it looks like *Brawl* will be appearing on shelves early this March. The game will include new characters (with some returning favorites), new levels, new items and a completely new, revamped "Adventure Mode". A great addition to this already hyped game is the "Masterpieces" section, which allows players to play demos of the games in which the battling characters originally appeared.



Overall, with its perfect combination of old and new gaming components, *Brawl* is on the fast track to becoming Game of the Year 2008.

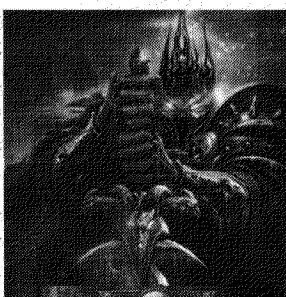
2. Grand Theft Auto IV (PS3, Xbox 360)- The fact that this game can be recognized by just the Roman numeral IV alone means something in itself. *GTA* has been the subject of much publicity; be it the infamous "Hot Coffee" mod, its less than moral game play, or the copy-cat real life crimes that have been committed, one thing's sure: love it or hate it, everyone knows *Grand Theft Auto*. The fourth installment in the series has a bigger environment than any other *GTA* game and it involves more freedom, which is what made the series famous in the first place. One of the greatest features of the game is its new online play, where players will likely have the same freedom as single player to either cooperate on missions or go head to head in combat. Another great feature added to the game is the "duck and cover" aspect added to the combat system. As with combat in *Gears of War* and *Uncharted: Drake's Fortune*, players can hide behind objects to avoid oncoming fire, which makes the combat play feel much more natural. For those players who were fans of the *GTAs* before, *Grand Theft Auto IV* is a must have of 2008.



3. Metal Gear Solid 4 (PS3)- Another long awaited, heavily anticipated sequel for 2008 is *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*. Though hardcore *MGS* fans may be put off by the change in scenery and the new belongs-in-a-retirement-home version of the main character, Solid Snake (yes, he looks that old), the game play still has the core elements that made players fall in love with the series, while adding new elements that only strengthen the game. In *MGS4*, when talking on the codex, players now have the opportunity to fast forward and rewind the messages. In addition to that, the control scheme for the game has been revamped and is easier to use. The PS3 analog stick is simple and responsive, the camera angle puts you right behind your character, making you part of the action, and aiming and firing has been simplified to make it easier on everyone. On top of actual game play, *MGS4* brings cutting, realistic graphics, with detailed textures and perfect shadow shading. Immersive sound brings you into the battle and lets you enjoy the fitting soundtrack. All together, *Metal Gear Solid 4* brings the series into the new year while keeping its old, awesome components close at hand.



4. World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King (PC)- With over 9 million subscribers to date, *World of Warcraft* owns the MMORPG market. With the second expansion pack, *Wrath of the Lich King*, expected in November, the number may well increase to 10 million. The expansion will raise the level cap to 80, giving players another 10 levels to gain. It will add an entirely new continent, Northrend, which will contain new zones and new enemies. With Northrend comes new instances, which will provide new bosses and new items. For those players with PvP (player vs. player) in mind, *WotLK* will include new battleground with destructible environments. Another addition will be a new profession, Inscription. Kind of like Enchanting, Inscription will add stats to spells instead of items (for example, a Mage's Fireball might do 2 points of damage more than before). Most likely the biggest addition to the game is the addition of the Hero class, the Death Knight. Upon hitting level 80, players can complete a long, complicated quest to unlock the Death Knight class which, when chosen for a new character, will start at a higher level. With all these great promises, let's hope Blizzard actually releases this expansion in 2008.



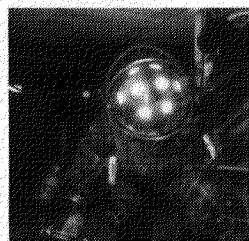
5. Wii Fit (Wii)- Though it may not follow the traditional definition players think of as a "game", *Wii Fit* is sure to amuse anyone who picks it up. Players don't have to be looking to lose weight (though it is an awesome side effect) to have fun with this game. With all the mini-games and activities involved, *Wii Fit* is an easy game to get anyone into, and a huge amount of fun whenever you have people over to your room. The Wii itself revolutionized gaming with the Wii Remote and Nunchuck; the system is now taking it a step further with the Balance Wii Board, which was designed just for this game. *Wii Fit* is not without its competitive elements either; players can compete to achieve their goal weight in the allotted time they assign. This game may not fit the stereotypical ideal for "Game of the Year", but don't be too quick to throw it out. In an age where video games have started to all blend together, *Wii Fit* is a shining beacon to those who are ready to try something new.



...And The Ones That Made 2007 Great for Gamers

By ANDY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

1. Bioshock (PC, Xbox 360) - This immersive and intense game is ranked at the top of many gamers' lists in 2007 due to its involving story and upgrade-based game play features. The game is set in a realistic dystopia in a time period reflective of the US in the fifties. The persistently first person camera, distant cackles or drones of enemies, and sparsely placed diaries strongly draw the player into this intricately laid out universe. The hulking "Big Daddies", featured on most advertisements of the game, are by far one of the best enemies in gaming history, due to their originality and the sheer panic they induce in the player during every encounter. *Bioshock* also introduces tough moral decisions, which are easily conveyed with today's realistic technology, when the player must decide whether or not to spare the lives of certain once-innocent characters, known as "Little Sisters." Combining these great environment and story elements with a great combat system, which allows players to upgrade their character with different genetic enhancements (no, not the ones you get e-mails about) makes this game a must buy for any gamer. Just don't play this alone in the dark!



2. Orange Box (PC, PS3, Xbox 360) - Gamers absolutely have not seen a game (or rather, a collection of games) as great as *Orange Box*, for the price of any standard next-gen game, in a long, long time. Developed by Valve, makers of the *Half-Life* series, the *Orange Box* is a collection of 5 games: *Half-Life 2*, *HL 2: Episode 1*, *HL 2: Episode 2*, *Portal*, and *Team Fortress 2*. Since its 2004 release, *Half-Life 2* remains one of the best shooters of all time. The *Episode* expansions build onto and improve the story already in place, and add many more fun hours of play to an already great game. What makes *Orange Box* amazing, however, are the two brand new games released with it. *Team Fortress 2* is a class-based online shooter with a refreshing art style and perfectly team-balanced levels and mission that makes it hard to put down, even if you're always at the bottom of the score chart, like me. The gem of the collection is *Portal*, a unique puzzle game that involves creating intra-dimensional portals to get around objects and solve problems. *Portal* is also one of the most genuinely funny games I've ever played, all thanks to the possibly-insane proctor of the series of puzzle solving tests. Since *Portal*, and quite possibly *TF2* as well, would already be on the top 5 list of 2007 as stand-alone games, *Orange Box* is a great investment for endless, irreplaceable fun.

3. Super Mario Galaxy (Wii) - Mario is back, and more original than ever, with the next installment of the Mario series. Following up the lack-luster *Mario Sunshine*, this game surely restored all gamers' faith in the Mario series with another quest to retrieve stars to save Princess Peach. *Galaxy* introduces a new element to the Mario games; where instead of simply jumping from flat platform to flat platform the game levels contain many floating areas, each with their own gravitational pull. This means that Mario can run around spherical areas to explore every possible side, and then jump high enough to be pulled down onto a different area to explore. This game also implements multi-player, where the second player controls a cursor on the screen and can stun enemies, which severely reduces the game's difficulty. Following in *Mario 64*'s footsteps, *Galaxy* continues to bring new elements to the entertaining adventures of everybody's favorite Italian plumber.

4. Call of Duty 4 (PC, PS3, Xbox 360) - Arguably the best online shooter since *Halo 3* and *Gears of War*, *Call of Duty 4* introduced some fresh ideas into an increasingly stale genre. Though the single-player part of the game is incredible alone, it's rather short and is dwarfed by the entertainment offered by online play. Taking the hint from incredibly successful games such as *World of Warcraft*, or even other offline shooter games, *CoD 4* brings deep achievement-based player customization to the online battlefield. With 5 default classes, and the create-a-class option, the differences between characters are immensely game play defining (unlike the merely aesthetic character differences in *Halo 3*). Players are also required to gain experience by succeeding online to unlock some of the more exciting and devastating abilities, which is what makes this game so addicting for its many hardcore players. *CoD4* will surely be used as a model for all online shooter games to come.



5. Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass (DS) - Another solid sequel produced by Nintendo, *Phantom Hourglass* is a must-buy for any fan of the *Zelda* series, especially those still in love with the over-head camera classics of the NES and Super Nintendo. Mixing the game play style of classic *Zelda* games with the cel-shading artwork introduced in *Wind Waker*, the series goes back to its roots with hours of exploring a bright and colorful world and solving fun and always new puzzles. The new look isn't the only change to the *Zelda* franchise, however, since controlling Link is now done almost entirely by interacting with the touch screen. Though some gamers find this awkward to work with initially, myself included, the new interface eventually feels very natural to work with. With a fun multi-player mode and unlockable gifts, *Phantom Hourglass* carries the *Zelda* torch with pride and continues this series' persistence to always deliver hours of ingenious and refreshing fun.

Lupe Fiasco Stays Cool and Makes a Name for Himself With New Disc

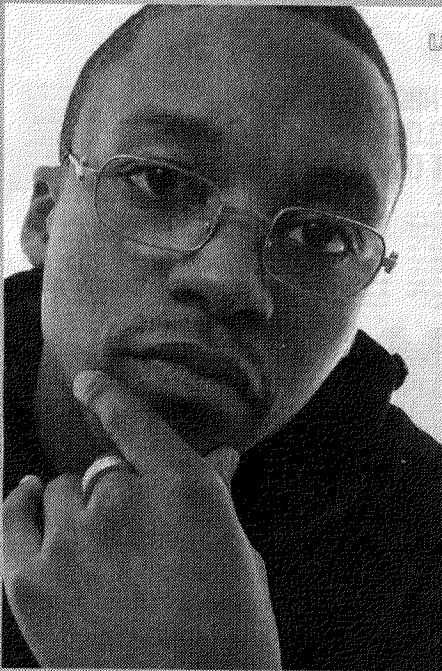
By ELISHIA PETERSON
Staff Writer

Lupe Fiasco has a new album out and you should listen to it. Lupe hasn't had much publicity, but he is slowly trying to make a name for himself. Rather than conform to music industry standards, Lupe Fiasco tries to set himself apart from other "dance instructing" artists who are more concerned with creating a new dance move than being a dope lyricist. His label Atlantic Records suggest that "Lupe Fiasco is the observer, a thinking man brave enough to dictate the acute thoughts that his peers ignore."

Fiasco, who's real name is Wasalu Muhammad Jaco is trying to go mainstream. The 25 year old lyricist has done what most artists have not; make music that is their own. Most artists today are merely puppets being controlled by their record labels, often being told what to sing and how to attract listeners. Not Lupe. Lupe is a creative musician who calls the shots. He writes the songs that he wants to present to music lovers.

Ever since his debut album *Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor* in 2006 he has made a path for hopefully other artists to follow. He launched his own company 1st and 15th Entertainment and teamed up with Kanye West for Kanye's hit single "Touch the Sky". Fiasco, the Chicago native grew up like the regular urban survivor. Though he wasn't so common. He had a passion for comic books and skateboards. The regular joe from Chicago has a special touch to bring to the music industry.

Fiasco's recent album *The Cool* hit the shelves this past December. You might be familiar with his single off the album "Superstar" featuring newcomer Matthew Santos, in which he



points out being not phased by stardom. Though he loves the people that appreciate his craft. This track is only part of what this album offers. Lupe's music is purely positive. He is very aware of the things that he says. More importantly, his music real. Yes, his album has some hot beats that anyone would enjoy. But, the beats don't make you want to create a structured dance to accompany the song. You'll be more caught up in what he is saying than choreographing a dance.

For instance, track 14 "Dumb It Down" says a mouthful. The chorus goes something like this: "They sayin' they don't feel you; Dumb it Down, We didn't graduate from school Lu; Dumb it Down, I'll tell you what you should do, Dumb it Down." The song is basically saying that

Lupe Fiasco refuses to sugar coat any of his opinions. Music today is changing so much, that we rarely question what it is we are listening to. Lupe is also saying: why should he dumb down his talent because the industry is not ready for a little truth? The rap game is repetitive. It's frequently been all about cars, money, and women. Fiasco is trying to break that cycle and get listeners actually listening again.

Fiasco's attempt to change the game is a tough one. With technology taking over, album sales are down. People are either buying music online or getting music from friends. Some people figure why buy an album when I can just borrow it from someone? If you don't buy the album, at least give it a chance and try listening to it. Though, Fiasco's album must be making some heads turn. He has received some recognition from music stations like MTV and VH1. In an interview last week *Entertainment Weekly's* January 18th issue, Lupe described himself as an artist. "I put myself as a storyteller first. I talk about the same concepts as Young Jeezy, but I deglamorize it and put it on a cinematic level that leaves it open to interpretation on more levels than [just saying]." Yes, Lupe raps about his life, but its more "this is where I came from and this is where I'm going" than "this is where I came from, now check out my new whip with the oversize rims."

Lupe Fiasco's secret weapon to gain some hip hop fans back is his latest album *The Cool*. His album is primarily a reassurance that hip hop is not dead, it has taken a break, possibly sleeping. But the break is over and the time has come. It is time to wake up and recognize. Recognize who Lupe Fiasco is.

Movie Review: Juno

By AMY LONGO
Photography Editor

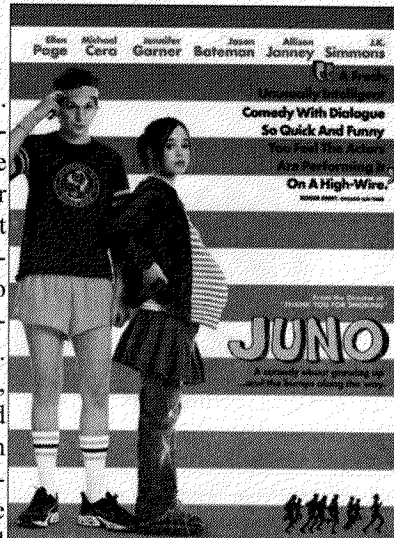
"It started with a chair". Juno (Ellen Page), the title character, opens the first scene of the film with a brief glimpse of her encounter with a friend that would eventually change everything. At only 16 years old, Juno MacGuff finds out she is pregnant with her best friend's baby. Over the course of nine months, Juno faces responsibilities and emotional ups and downs with help from her family. The relationship between Juno and the father, Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera), becomes strained as Juno sets out to find and get acquainted with adoptive parents. Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman play Vanessa and Mark Loring whose lives are turned around when they take on the process of adoption and parenthood.

This movie is not your typical "boy-gets-girl-pregnant" scenario. *Juno* stands out from other high school flicks because the characters are realistic and relatable. The dialogue between quick-witted Juno and her friend Leah first appears early in the film and one can't help but laugh at their clever use of the English language. One may question, however, how a 16-year-old could carry out such a conversation in real life. Juno's deliverance of sarcasm and humor seem way past her years but ultimately defines her as a movie icon.

The character Paulie Bleeker has a smaller role than one would expect in the movie, but is nonetheless a great influence. Bleeker is not very involved in Juno's life throughout the pregnancy as one would hope. Yet, as Juno's delivery date approaches, Juno's independent spirit shines through as she struggles to find happiness for her adoptive parents and herself.

Garner puts on a remarkable performance as Vanessa, whose dream to be a mother comes true when approached by Juno. The growing tension between Vanessa and Mark shakes up the plot and adversely affects Juno's emotional stability. The unusual bond between Juno and Mark Loring, who is at least twice her age, creates friction amidst the ongoing conflicts thus leading to the climax of the story. "Juno" proves that teenage pregnancy doesn't have to impede on a girl's life, but instead allow for growth and self-assurance.

While the movie portrays Juno as a stylized interpretation of a "normal" teenager, Juno's level of maturity proves that she indeed is still a kid at heart. Michael Cera's charm and quirky demeanor is beautifully infused into Bleeker's character and makes for a believable personality. Juno will make a lasting impression of moviegoers and the film industry. Among the abundant exchange of jokes and high school humor, true love rises and encompasses the whole of the film. *Juno*, directed by Jason Reitman, takes last year's *Knocked Up* above and beyond.



Cloverfield : The Good and the Bad About the Big, Ugly Monster

By NEIL HUNKINS
Associate Editor

Cloverfield chronicles a modern day New York City turned on its head by the arrival of a creature of unstoppable strength. Like the terror-stricken residents, the film's audience is sucked into the chaos and panic of this mayhem through the first person perspective.

We are never given the how or the why behind the creature's arrival, but none of that matters. What matters is how the documentarian, his three friends and the rest of those caught in the monster's path struggle to survive. For this reason, Cloverfield rocks.

The white-knuckle intensity of this story jumps off the screen through the film's unconventional and fresh presentation. The single camera, single perspective approach denies us moviegoers of what we have come to expect is our right to all-encompassing plotlines that answer every question we have before the end credits roll.

And, above all, the anonymity (and, hence, believability) of the film's cast personalizes their characters' plight. Watching their quest through the camcorder's eye forces us to ask what we would do in the same situation. All of these elements add up to one excellent thrill of a movie. This film has breathed new life into a genre that lately has been turning stale.

While Cloverfield employs amateur cinematography wonderfully, its true draw is its overall storyline and character development. By the film's end, we're just as emotionally invested in the characters finding safety as they themselves are.

Don't see Cloverfield expecting to be handed a neatly packaged plot; you'll only disappoint yourself. Instead, enjoy the film for what it is: an emotional thrill ride of Armageddon-like destruction and ordinary citizens turned into heroes that will leave you at the edge of your seat and itching for more.

The Good
The Bad



The hype: a decapitated Lady Liberty. A cataclysmic tale of something attacking Manhattan, told entirely through a camcorder. The Blair Witch of monster movies. Godzilla for the digital age.

The reality: ... eh.

Truth be told, we all wanted Cloverfield to be good. Trying something unconventional should be rewarded, and this movie is unconventional to say the least. A low-budget film with underplayed marketing, Cloverfield had enough enigmatic appeal to score the number one box office spot and break records for a Martin Luther King weekend opening.

However, many ticket holders walked away disappointed. The nontraditional format still has some kinks to be ironed out. One of the problems is that it may have made the movie a little too realistic. To some, the news-like footage of Manhattan under attack felt too reminiscent, at times, of recent history. Others reported feeling physically ill from watching the shaky camerawork. Most of all, the style deprives the audience of a satisfying ending.

From the beginning, it is clear that the worst has happened. The film's opening informs us that the videotape we are about to watch was recovered from the area formerly known as Central Park. A powerful beginning, but it takes all of the punch out of the final scenes. For the last 20 minutes of the film, the audience is just waiting for the inevitable.

It's quite a trip getting there, though. Cloverfield is shocking at times and often manages to capture the hilarity of such an absurd chain of events without compromising the fear and loss felt by the main characters. All of this adds to the hope that Cloverfield will be everything we wanted it to be, but any movie is only as good as its ending.

And like the camera-shy, building sized sea monster that is demolishing Midtown, the ending can be seen from a mile away.

Super Bowl XLII: Preview/Results

By: Derek Tracey
Sports Editor



This years Super Bowl was a war of the Northeast, so to speak. This year XLII will feature the New England Patriots up against the unexpected underdogs, the New York Giants. Will Brady be able to lead his team to victory, or will Manning pull another win out of nowhere, surprising both the fans and the opposition alike? It will be curious to see if history will repeat itself, and just how similar XLII will be to Game 16, in which the Giants fell to the Pats 35 to 38.

Apparently not very similar at all.....Sunday nights game was extremely close, and yet extremely boring. In fact, I would have been asleep by the beginning of the 3rd quarter, if it weren't for the Giant fans next door-thanks a lot Dan. Up until the start of the fourth, the game was still at a 3-7 score New England. The statistics clearly speak for themselves, or at least they should have. The patriots had not lost one game in the 2007/2008 season, while the Giants had lost numerous. Unfortunately for the Pat's, they were suffering from 2 main issues; 1 was that quarterback Tom Brady was having difficulties throwing the ball down the middle of the field, and that he didn't through the ball nearly enough at all. You would think that after a number of failed hand off attempts and even more saks, that he would have wanted to get rid of the ball ASAP, but no. I am not blaming Brady for everything, though. In fact, there really is no excuse for a quarterback to be saked more than 3 times in only 2 quarters of a game of this caliber. The truth is that the Patriots offense was not up to par during the game at all, leaving Brady with very limited options.

The Giants had played an excellent game all evening. Usually a 4th quarter "bring it all" team, they switched it up by playing hard since the very beginning. By far, their strongest asset was their defensive line. Without them, it is very possible that by the end, the score would have been so different that the Giants wouldn't have had time to catch up in the fourth.

The game itself was very stop and go. There were a lot of breaks and loss of momentum throughout, especially in the third quarter. At 8 minutes in the 4th, the Giants had taken the lead, making the score 10-7 Giants.

After this, the game once again took a slower tone by the 4 minute mark in the fourth. At this point, the Patriots really could use a touchdown to insure their survival. Brady appears to be throwing the ball again, and the offensive side is regaining their catching ability. At 3 minutes, the Pat's make a touchdown, making it anybodies game at a score of 14-10, Patriots. By far, this was the turning point of the entire XLII game. At a 1 minute 22 seconds, it was still very close and very uncertain just how the game would turn out.

Then, at just over a minute, the Giants threw a game winning pass, taking them to a first down at the 24 yard line. At 35 seconds, they then made a touchdown, taking the lead to 17-14.

Despite the Patriots best effort, and an attempted "Hail Mary" pass from Brady to Moss, the Giants won the Superbowl, with a score of 17-14.



The NorthEast Divided: Super Bowl XLII Team Statistics



WINS	10	18
LOSES	6	0
NFC	7-5	4-0
AFC	3-1	12-0

Sports Profile: Anna Feindt

By ALEX DAVIS
Contributor



Q: How did you get started with basketball?

A: I started in 4th grade, playing with all boys, and continued to play on a team even though I moved several times. In 8th grade we went undefeated in our conference for State Championships; we were 18-0, and I was named MVP. I made junior varsity my first year of high school and played varsity the following three years, playing in various championships and such, and then I was recruited by Arcadia by Coach Howley, and began here fall of 07'.

Q: What role does basketball play in your life?

A: Basketball has always been a top priority in my life, aside from academics and family. I love the game with all my heart, I love being part of a team and sharing my talent as a part of something. My team is a great group of individuals, the coach is a wonderful person and friend who is always there for us, and I feel playing this sport has really shaped a large part of my life.

Q: What has it been like being a freshman and playing basketball?

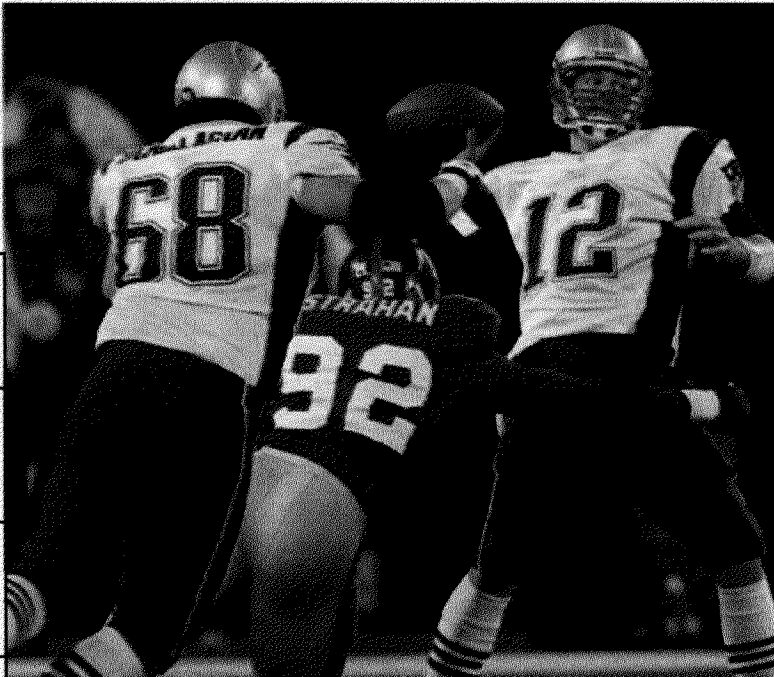
A: The freshman transition was very smooth for me because of basketball, I knew the coach and made friends with many of my peers on the team before school had even started. The seniors have been wonderful, they were not only approachable but quickly became friends. Managing athletics and academics can be challenging at some points, but having been an athlete most of my academic career, I feel I have learned to manage well. I am not a procrastinator and I know I have to do everything in advance. Sports has also been a stress reliever from the everyday struggles of college life; I know when I'm upset I have to go on the court and shoot free-throws or run up and down the court, sometimes even run sprints!

Q: How do you prepare for a basketball game?

A: The most important things I do is to talk to my mother, because I always feel really nervous no matter who we are playing. My mom and dad always sends me really encouraging cards before each game, and they help me stay focused. I always have to wear high black socks, pre-wrap in my hair, and I always eat a Clementine before the game. Also , I give my mom and dad a hug and say a prayer before the start of each game.

Q: What do you hope this season will bring?

A: I guess, growth as an individual, and overall success for the whole team. I hope this season will only add to the girls basketball team on and off the court., and I Hope to see you all out there!



Picture courtesy of: www.nfl.com